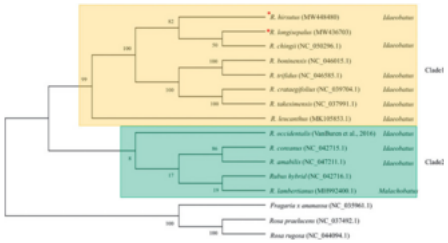
Rubus occidentalis

Rubus occidentalis is a species of *Rubus* native to eastern North America. Its common name **black raspberry** is shared with other closely related species. Other names occasionally used include **bear's eye blackberry**, **black cap**, **black cap raspberry**,[3][4] and **scotch cap**.[5]



Rubus phylogenetic tree[2]

Description

Rubus occidentalis is a deciduous shrub growing to 2 to 3 metres (6.6 to 9.8 ft) tall.[6] The leaves are pinnate, with five leaflets on leaves, strong-growing stems in their first year, and three leaflets on leaves on flowering branchlets. The flowers are distinct in having long, slender sepals 6 to 8 millimetres (0.24 to 0.31 in) long, more than twice as long as the petals. The round-shaped fruit is a 12-to-15-millimetre (0.47 to 0.59 in) diameter aggregation of drupelets; it is edible, and has a high content of anthocyanins and ellagic acid.[7][8]

Long stems also called canes grow up to 1.8 metres (5.9 ft) in length, usually forming an arch shape, but sometimes upright. Canes have curved, sharp thorns, while immature canes are unbranched and have a whitish bloom.[9]

The black raspberry is related to the red raspberry *Rubus idaeus* and *Rubus strigosus*, sharing the white underside of leaves,[10] and fruit that readily detaches from the carpel.[9]

Habitat

Wild black raspberry fruits at different stages of maturity

The plant grows in disturbed areas, especially those that are logged or cut. It is also found in meadows, and near streams and lakes, trails or roadways.[9] The native range of *Rubus occidentalis* extends as far east as New Brunswick, as far west as Nebraska, as far north as Quebec, and as far south as Mississippi.[11]

Pests and diseases

Apple mosaic virus, black raspberry necrosis virus, *Elsinoë veneta*, raspberry bushy dwarf virus, raspberry leaf curl virus, *Rhizobium radiobacter*, *Rhizobium rhizogenes*, *Didymella applanata*, *Monilinia fructigena*, *Peronospora sparsa*, and *Peridroma saucia* all infest black raspberries.[12]

Cultivars

Common black raspberry cultivars include: Black Hawk, Bristol, Jewel, Cumberland, Morrison, Munger, and Logan.[13]

Commercial growing and processing

The center for black raspberry production is in the Willamette Valley in Oregon. The main cultivar,

Rubus occidentalis	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Plantae
Clade:	Tracheophytes
Clade:	Angiosperms
Clade:	Eudicots
Clade:	Rosids
Order:	Rosales
Family:	Rosaceae
Genus:	*Rubus*
Species:	***R. occidentalis***
Binomial name	
Rubus occidentalis L. 1753	
Synonyms[1]	
• *Melanobatus michiganus* Greene	
• *Melanobatus occidentalis* (L.) Greene	

'Munger', is grown on about 600 hectares (1,500 acres). Other cultivars include 'John Robertson', 'Allen', 'Jewel', 'Blackhawk', 'Macblack', 'Plum Farmer', 'Dundee', 'Hanover', and 'Huron'. The plants are summer tipped by hand, mechanically pruned in winter and then machine harvested. The yields are generally low per acre and this is why the fruits are often expensive.

The species has been used in the breeding of many *Rubus* hybrids; those between red and black raspberries are common under the name purple raspberries; 'Brandywine', 'Royalty', and 'Estate' are examples of purple raspberry cultivars. Wild purple raspberries have also been found in various places in northeastern North America where the two parental species co-occur and occasionally hybridize naturally.

The berries are typically dried or frozen, made into purées and juices, or processed as colorants. Fresh berries are also marketed in season. Two well-known liqueurs based predominantly on black raspberry fruit include France's Chambord Liqueur Royale de France and South Korea's various kinds of Bokbunja-ju.

Black raspberry — watercolor, 1893

A punnet of black raspberries

See also

- Dewberry, a sub-set of blackberries
- *Rubus niveus* and *Rubus coreanus*, related Asian species

References

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13. "Raspberry varieties (includes black raspberries)" (https://harvesttotable.com/raspberry_varieties_there_are/) . Harvest to Table. 8 November 2021. Retrieved 11 August 2021.

External links

- Media related to Rubus occidentalis at Wikimedia Commons

- Biota of North America Program 2014 county distribution map (http://bonap.net/MapGallery/County/Rubus%20occidentalis.png)
- "Rubus occidentalis" (https://pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Rubus+occidentalis) . *Plants for a Future*.